

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MenAlive Artistic Director Announces Retirement Bob Gunn Passes the Torch After More than 20 years of Service

SANTA ANA, CA - After a distinguished 21 years with MenAlive - Orange County Gay Men's Chorus (OCGMC), Board Chairman Mike Auchter announces that Bob Gunn will be retiring as Artistic Director.

A professional musician with over 40 years of experience, Bob holds a Bachelors Degree in Piano Performance, Music Theory and Education from Azusa Pacific University. Showcasing an extensive musical career, Bob is experienced as pianist, keyboardist, singer, producer, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, and recording artist.

"Bob was there from the beginning of MenAlive. During the time I was starting the chorus the two of us met for lunch in Laguna. When I told him about this new adventure, he immediately said he wanted to be a part and help me build it. We already had a pianist, so he offered to sing baritone. I finally asked him to play on one number in that first concert, which led to him being our first full-time accompanist. It wasn't long before I asked if he would be our Assistant Music Director and we proceeded together successfully for many years," says Rich Cook, MenAlive's founder and first Artistic Director.

Cook continued, "I was so happy to have such a skilled keyboardist and consummate musician all around as a partner in this venture. I congratulate him in carrying on the mission of MenAlive so well. And though I know I will see him, I want to publicly wish him all the best and encourage him to keep using the mighty gift that has been bestowed upon him."

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MenAlive's Board Chairman Mike Auchter added, "Bob's immense talent for teaching and directing the chorus have ensured every performance was of the highest standard. He has taken MenAlive through some very challenging times; always managing to bring out our best!"

"It's been a thrill and special joy to be a part of OCGMC since that very first Christmas concert back in 2001," said Bob Gunn. "So many wonderful memories over these last 21 years that I will treasure forever. Kent and I have loved being a part of this unique, special community and we both look forward to watching the exciting path that MenAlive will surely follow in the years ahead. My heart is so full, much love to our beautiful OCGMC family!"

Bob will close out the current season with his last show being I Am America that will be performed on Saturday, July 16, 2022 at the Barclay Theatre in Irvine. Tickets for I Am America will go on sale in the coming weeks.

A committee led by Mike Auchter will conduct a search for OCGMC's next Artistic Director. Press images of Bob can be found in the [Press Images](#) in the Newsroom at ocgmc.org/newsroom.

About MenAlive - OC Gay Men's Chorus

Founded in 2001, MenAlive - OC Gay Men's Chorus has grown into one of Orange County's largest choruses and continues to be an active and respected partner in the Southern California arts scene. As a strong LGBTQ+ advocate, MenAlive traditionally produces three concerts each season in addition to the various outreach and community events throughout each year.

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